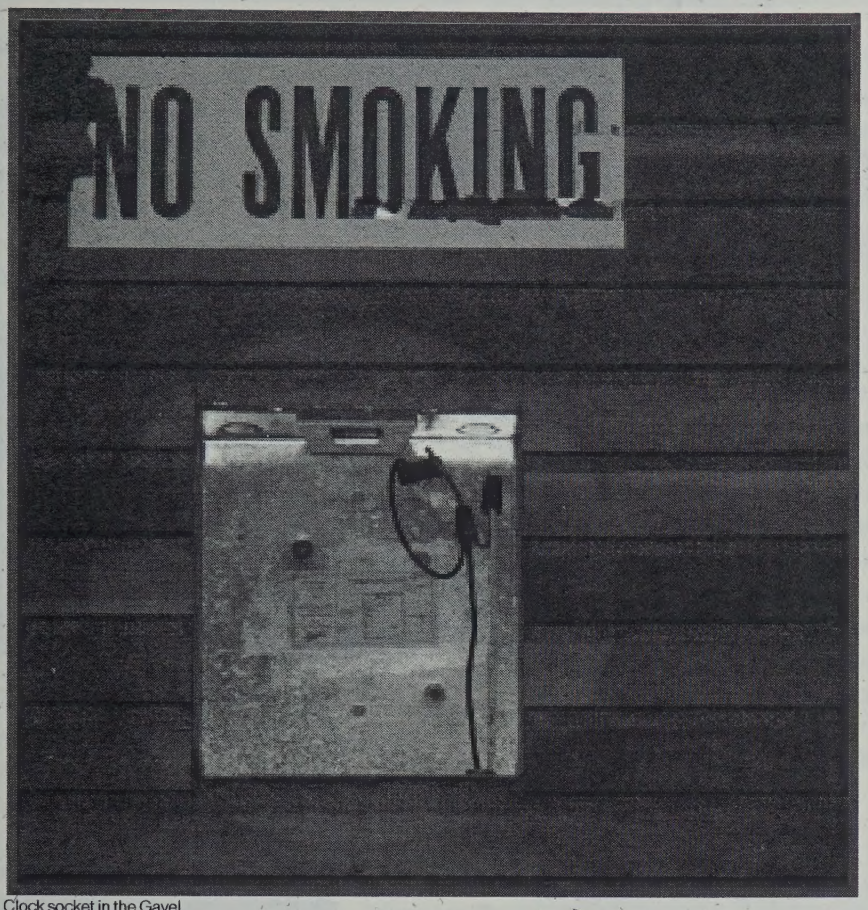
# Canons of Construction

Volume 37, Number 8 The Law Students' Newspaper Mar 9, 2006




Clock socket in the Gavel

# A Modest Response...

**Neil Buddel, Robert Bechtel, & David R. Percy**

Allison Eng's questions about the state of Law School Infrastructure are timely and in some cases telepathic, as they deal with issues that have been the topic of hot discussion up here in the oxygen deprived heights of the fourth floor.

We have been conducting a campaign about the state of law school lighting for three years. Fortunately, we gained a sympathetic ear in the form of Neish Gantly in the Planning and Infrastructure Group. He agreed with our assessment that the former lighting gave the building an air of a POW Camp. As a result, all lights in the building (including the Gavel and Library) have now been retrofitted. The new bulbs are brighter and provide a more 'natural' light. They are more energy efficient and less costly to operate. Overall, the response has been very positive by both students and staff.

During the renovation of CN Alumni Hall, all the old furniture being replaced was used in Faculty offices or other rooms in the building and then made available to student groups. The brown leather chairs are in use throughout the fourth floor. Student groups claimed items of the remaining furniture and the leftovers were sent to Supply Management Services to be disposed of via purchases or recycling programs in accordance with university policy.

Much of the surplus furniture was also used to furnish Garneau House. The Faculty of Law obtained the right to use Garneau House in order to address the space needs of student groups. Currently, Canons of Construction, the Student Arbitration and Mediation Society (SAMS), and the University of Alberta International Law Society (UAILS) occupy this house.

Ordinary classroom upgrades are completed through a university process called "Facility Alteration Requests", which are vetted annually by the Vice-President (Facilities and Operations) based on priority and available funding. Our 2005 request to improve and upgrade classrooms 201 and 207 was approved and work on those classrooms will begin in the summer after the end of classes this summer. We have also made major classroom upgrades a focus of Law Campaign 2008 and have met with some encouraging initial responses. As our highest next priority, we also plan to upgrade classrooms 101, 105, and 113 as soon as we can raise the funds, either from the University or private sources.

I hope that by now students have observed that the clock problem is much improved. We are in the course of replacing the internal mechanisms to get them all synchronized, even though this deprives the Dean of his best excuse for being late to class. If this fails, we will be looking at replacing the entire clock system.

With respect, there are divided opinions about the curtains both in the library and the classrooms. Some see them as one of the few surviving remnants of seventies chic, a long-forgotten era when bell-bottom trousers were all the rage and when four electrical outlets could adequately serve the needs of 78 students. Others are convinced that the University will have to replace them in the near future as soon as they disintegrate. In the meantime, the Dean is seeking potential donors with a strong aesthetic sense.

Planning for the first floor renovation is now underway. As announced, the Frank and Beverly MacInnis gift ($2.5 million) will be used to support new classrooms, office space, and student study space. The committee, chaired by Professor Rod Wood, includes the Dean, three professors, the Assistant Dean, the library, and a student representative (Jon Wescott, Vice President Academic). Student input into the renovation has always been a top priority and Jon has been involved since the beginning.

We are confident that there are exciting times ahead for all student facilities in the building and guarantee we will obtain student advice in the planning of all major renovations.

# From Your VP SOCIALS

Jennifer Young (3L) &
Laura Gill (2L)

**UPCOMING LSA EVENTS**

Mar 23 & 24: **SU AND LAW FACULTY ELECTIONS** - Watch the Bulletin Board for more details in the coming weeks!

Mar 24: **MED/LAW FACULTY MIXER** - FABS in the Gavel with both faculties, Followed by afterparty at the Ironhorse.

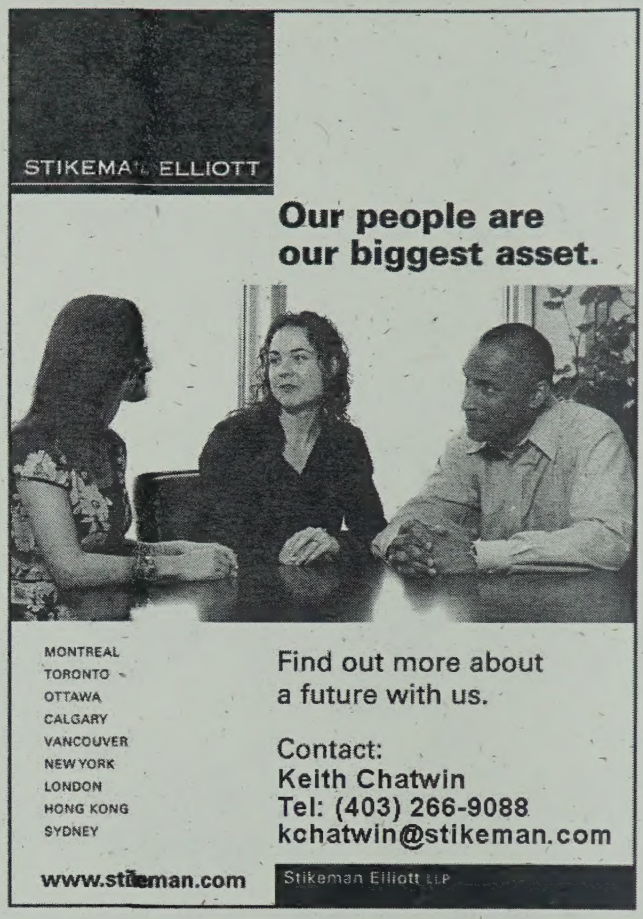
Photo by Justyna Herman

Well, only a few more months of school and this year is done. I guess time really does fly when you are having fun. Speaking of fun, there is still a ton more of it this semester. The much talked about **Med/Law Mixer** will be held on March 24th starting in the Gavel with an after-party at the Iron Horse. It promises to be lots of fun, with two special guest bartenders!

The LSA's annual **Jeopardy Tournament** will be held at noon on March 14th, 15th, and 16th. Watch the LSA board for team sign-up sheets. We will end the year by having **The End of the Year Party**, which will be held on April 29th. Keep an eye out for more information.

In between all the social events, "Election Fever" is about to hit the halls of the law school yet again. Between LSA Executive positions, as well as various clubs and committees, there are nearly 50 spots up for grabs! The LSA and the various committees are a fantastic way to get involved in student life and we encourage anyone who is thinking of running to do so! Also, for those who do not run in the election, please take the time to vote for your fellow classmates.

Elections are taking place March 20-24th. LSA positions include President, VP General, VP Academic, VP Socials (2L and 3L), VP Sports, VP Services (2L and 3L), and VP External. For descriptions of these positions as well as others, please see the LSA Board, or stop any one of us in the hallways. Election policies and procedures will be posted on the bulletin board and the LSA Board. All candidates must read through the nomination packages, attend all candidate meetings, and abide by the election regulations. Any questions regarding the election can be directed to Tyler Derksen, our VP External. A huge thank you goes out to Tyler who has kindly agreed to oversee the election process for our VP General, Joanna Cox, to prevent any conflict of interest that would have occurred otherwise. See you at the polls!




*The deadline for submissions for the next issue of Canons is **March 20, 2006**. Please send you submissions to canons@ualberta.ca*

*Canons of Construction* is the official Law Student Newspaper of the University of Alberta Law Faculty. *Canons'* principal objectives are to provide equitable and judicious coverage of issues and events germane to Law Students at the University of Alberta and to provide an open forum for the free exchange and expression of thought, opinions and ideas.

All law students and interested parties in the legal community are encouraged to contribute submissions, provided that contributions are accompanied by name, student number and telephone number. No articles are published anonymously. *Canons* reserves the right to edit submissions for content, length, and legality. *Canons* will not publish materials deemed by the board to be racist, sexist, homophobic or libelous. Ideas and opinions expressed in *Canons* do not necessarily reflect the views of the *Canons* board.

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# Busy Bodies Can Make Better Use of Their Time

**Corey Sandquist (1L)**

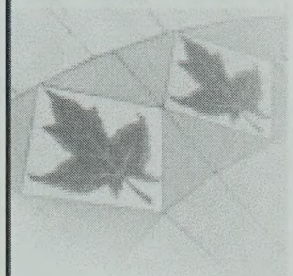
In the January 26, 2006 issue of the Gateway, there was an article discussing a student who was attempting to file a petition that would ban smoking on campus - indoors and outdoors. The student needed about 400 more signatures to total 1600. This was a sufficient number to have this proposition discussed by the Student's Union. The ban would be absolute, and would include residences; students would be unable to smoke outside their own homes or anywhere outside of any building on campus.

There is something fundamentally wrong with this proposition. First, it is an influence and possible constraint on liberty imposed by 1600 people. This represents roughly about 5-6 percent of people on campus. If there does exist some policy reason for this constraint on liberty then it is necessary to have a more representative number. Entertaining a notion from 5 percent is simply a waste of resources. Further, if this individual is adamant about this proposition, she would certainly be willing to put the effort into getting additional signatures. Perhaps if she has this much time to fight against what we are trying to preserve, then maybe she could do a few readings for us.

Of course the fundamental issue is how far we are willing to let authority impose its will. The Canadian government has refused to completely ban smoking. Are university students that special that we know what is best for everyone? And if we do, does this mean because it is better for people that we can forbid actions. No. It is simply a necessity that there are certain inconveniences that we must live with. We may not like everything everyone does, but we have no choice but to tolerate these actions.

Well, perhaps that is going too far. It is not necessary to tolerate these behaviors if you just move to Cuba. There, an individual can be sure anything the state does not like won't occur a lot. Yeah, that would be great. Better yet, why not simply let me tell everyone what they should do at all times. It is simply not going to happen. An individual may not like smoking. He may not like seeing people do it. I personally don't like being unable to get a date, but some things just must be tolerated.


University of Ottawa



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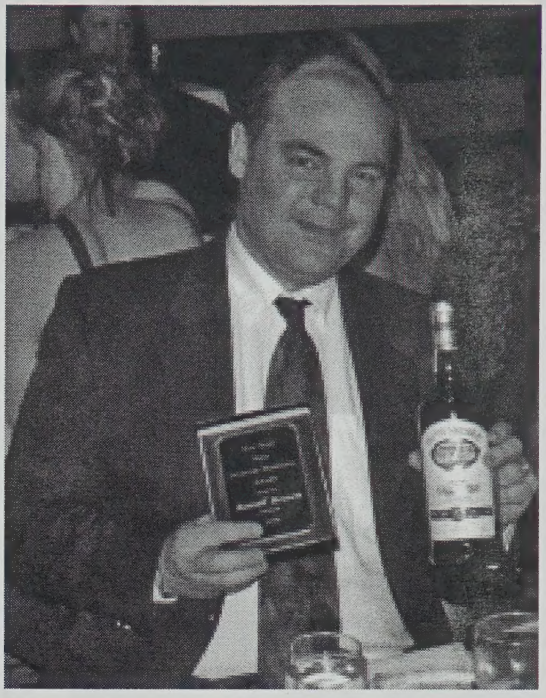
**Once again, your hockey pool standings:**

1) Josh Stuchnick4 – 644 points
2) Adam Elwi – 640 points
3) Greg Pratch – 637 points
4) Vincent Kurata – 634 points
5) Steve Heagy – 632 points
6) Matt Staric – 631 points
7) TravisLidstone2 – 625 points
8) TravisLidstone1 – 622 points
9) FarrelGreenspan – 617 points
10) Nav Virk – 606 points

Bringing up the rear:
Michael Klaray – 422 points

# CARBOLIC SM

# SMOKE BALL



**Photos by**
**Sajan Alexander, Justyna Herman, Heather Grab, Katherine Love**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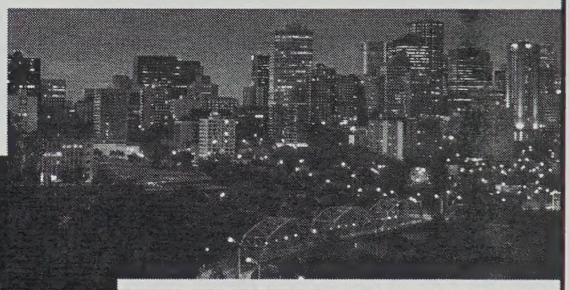

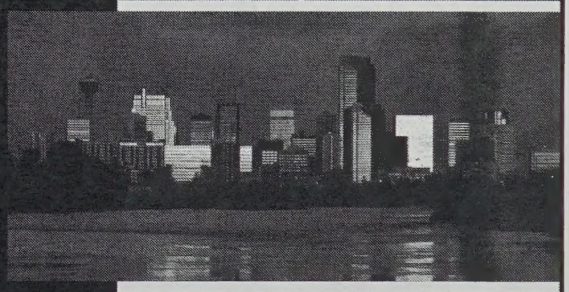

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# GETTING FIT FOR ARTICLES

## Allison Eng (2L)

Whenever the word "fit" comes up, I'm reminded of the Seinfeld episode where Kramer and Jerry discuss write-offs. The exchange went something like this:

Kramer: [referring to a broken electronic device] Oh, they can just write it off.

Jerry: Write it off? Do you even know what it means to write something off?"

Kramer: Of course I do. It means just that – you write-it-off. [arm motions]

Jerry: Kramer, you have no idea what a write-off is.

True, no one really knows what fit means. But it's a catchword used frequently by recruiters. They will often say, "we're looking for someone who is a fit with the firm." Well, what exactly are they looking for?

Canons met with student recruiters from four law firms in Edmonton and Calgary to find out about fit. While not all of what they had to say is new, all of them candidly shared fresh insights that are, at the very least, worthy of reminder as the 2Ls gear up to search for articles.

The notion of fit was best summarized by Analea Wayne (Miller Thomson), who slices into three pieces: culture, lifestyle, and personality. She views the firm as her second family, given that she spends as much time with her co-workers as she does with her family. Granted, as Kyla Sandwith (BLG) pointed out in her reference to family, large national firms usually comprise several "families", so it may be easier to find a 'fit' in that setting. Bernie Ho of Macleod Dixon (100+ lawyers) affirmed Kyla's remark by defining fit as including people of different strengths that address the different needs of the firm. She valued diversity and looked for more established characteristics such as sound judgment, academic achievement, and personality type.

So, fit seems to be a function of compatibility with the firm's culture, the lifestyle of the people in the firm, and personality. At its core, fit also encompasses demonstrated competence through grades and good street sense. Helpful yet? Read on …

**Firm culture.** Where the rubber hits the road is at the interview. "The face-to-face interview is critical," said Analea. In addition to selling yourself, the interview is also a time to get a sense of the firm's culture. Important as it is for the firm to determine whether you are a fit with them, the reverse, said Joe Spelliscy (Duncan & Craig), is equally true: "The firm has to be a fit for you as much as you have to be a fit with them. Turn around the questions that you're asked in the interview." This was affirmed by Analea: "We're trying to sell ourselves to you just as much as you're trying to sell yourself to us," she explained. She added that second and third interviews are intentionally conducted by multiple lawyers so that students can get a better sense of the firm culture.

**Lifestyle.** The obvious way to learn about the lawyer's lifestyle is to talk to them, not just about their practise area, but about their life outside the firm. Nothing is more important than meeting people at the firm. Bearing in mind that the lawyers on the articling committee are primarily responsible for recruitment, Bernie suggested that students contact other lawyers at a firm to get an honest picture of what it's like to practice law there. Joe recommended phoning articling students. "We [the articling committee] hear about that," he commented.

**Personality.** This aspect of fit tends to be a product of natural forces. Be genuine. Kyla cautioned that recruiters are quick to pick up on insincerity. She also notices when there is a significant discrepancy between a student's written application and in-person interview. If you present yourself as a sporty and outgoing individual on your resume, the interviewer will anticipate a lively person.

**Demonstrated competence (aka. grades).** The recruiters were asked to give advice to the "middle-of-the-road" student who is heading into the articles search with uncertainty. Their responses included: a) "keep working hard; it's not unattainable"; b) "a little bit of humility is a good thing, but remember to temper it with confidence"; c) "don't limit your options to the large firms"; d) "It's not the end of the world if you get one bad grade. After my first year in law …"

In our search for articles, nothing underscores the importance of being prepared. Preparation not only involves churning out applications, but also contemplating one's broader, long-term goals, which "fit" addresses. As Joe put it, "know what you're looking for in your personal and professional life." Sometimes, as students, we fail to see beyond the 12-month articling period. Whether you've warmed up to the term "fit" or not, there's no denying that it forces you to consider stuff that surpasses the dreaded articling period. And that's a good thing.

# To Rotate or Not to Rotate...

## Allison Eng (2L)

Rotations offer a broad and balanced articling experience. Whether the rotation is based on practice area (BLG, Miller Thomson), or otherwise (D&C – floor-based), the idea is to expose the student to the entire firm. The disadvantage is that everything comes in snapshots and snippets, and students are physically moved at the end of each rotation.

The traditional mentorship-based article assists a student in focusing on a practice area and treats the student as the most junior lawyer in the group. It appeals to those who have a strong sense of where they want to practice. One disadvantage is a lack of exposure to the rest of the firm. Macleod Dixon uses this structure for its articling program, and tempers it with flexibility through an optional rotation or by individual request to do work in another practice area.

Whether a firm's articling program is rotation-based or not, every articling student will nevertheless be assigned a principal who ideally becomes his/her mentor.

*...Continued on page 8*

**COME TO OUR NEXT MEETING!**

**DATE: March 15**

**TIME: Noon**

**PLACE: The Gavel**

# Law Girl: Christy Lovig

Hometown: Kelowna, a.k.a. K-town

Undergrad Studies: BComm and an MBA in Marketing

**If you were allowed to wear whatever you wanted under the robes in court, what would it be?**

Nudity becomes me.

**What weird exam rituals do you have?**

I write them, isn't that weird enough?

**If you could have an afternoon with one person dead or alive, who would it be?**

Elvis of the '50s. He's the only one who can correctly teach the hip-popping move in which the outcome would resemble something royally sexy.

**If you could go anywhere in the world, where would it be?**

Morocco. And I'd wear completely different clothes and be a completely different person and go by the name Fatima (Almost Famous, baby).

**Favourite cartoon show from when you were younger you wish they would bring back?**

Apparently my favourite cartoon show was something scandalous that I shouldn't have been watching in the first place, but it took a bit for the parents to catch on due to the cute cartoony characters. Who knew they had cartoon porn on at 5am Saturdays in the 80's???

**What was the scariest thing you have ever done in your life?**

Running by myself in my typical summer running attire down the streets of Aswan, Egypt. I found a treadmill the next morning.

**The one TV show you wouldn't miss even during exams?**

There's a serious lack of TV in my schedule in a non-exam period. I'm a movie girl, and tend to watch more during exam time. Plus my house is spotless during study times.

**Which famous person would you want to play you in a movie about your life?**

Parker Posey with a dye job. She's kooky, clumsy and fabulous.

**Name a fashion faux pas that drives you crazy.**

Skirts or dresses with jeans. One or the other, make your pick!!!

# Law Guy: Warren Woo

Hometown: Vancouver/Edmonton

Undergrad Studies: Poli Sci major, just as useless as your specialty!

**If you were allowed to wear whatever you wanted under the robes in court, what would it be?**

X-Men briefs with Gambit's face covering the pee-hole, Patrick Roy Habs jersey, and a platinum tire pendant with blinged-out spinner. And of course a Batman mask.

**What weird exam rituals do you have?**

The weirdest of all – cramming for 22 hours straight and getting 1.5 hours of sleep, followed by a McMuffin and triple latte.

**If you could have an afternoon with one person dead or alive, who would it be?**

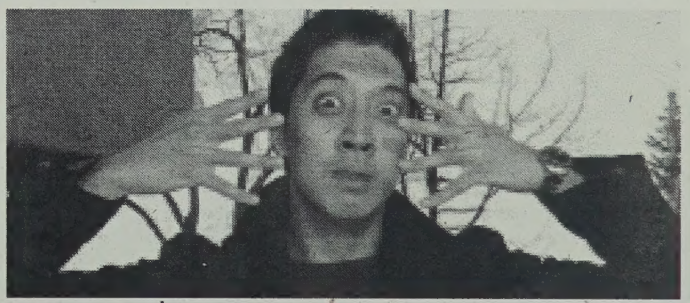
Dead people – Aaliyah or Ol' Dirty Bastard. Alive person – 2Pac.

**If you could go anywhere in the world, where would it be?**

Right now, Kauai or Italy.

**Favourite cartoon show from when you were younger you wish they would bring back?**

Ducktales, Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles (the good one), Captain Power…NEEERD!



**What was the scariest thing you have ever done in your life?**

Go too fast on Highway 2 during a snowstorm at night, fishtail and spin into the ditch then end up in the oncoming traffic side…wait, that was last week.

**The one TV show you wouldn't miss even during exams?**

The NFL network, The Sopranos, Food network.

**Which famous person would you want to play you in a movie about your life?**

Surprisingly, not Yao Ming…I'll go with Donnie Yen (yeah, who is that?).

**Name a fashion faux pas that drives you crazy.**

White socks with black shoes, shirts that are darker than the accompanying tie and just don't go.

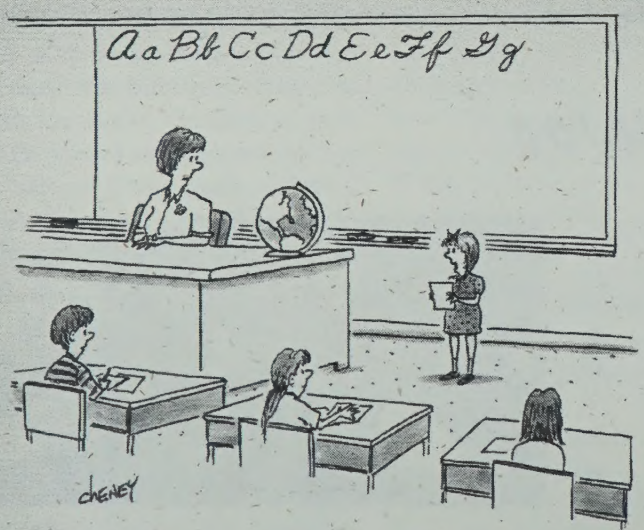
## To Rotate...

...Continued from page 6

Whether a firm's articling program is rotation-based or not, every articling student will nevertheless be assigned a principal who ideally becomes his/her mentor.

| | Calgary | | Edmonton | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Firm | Macleod Dixon | BLG | Duncan & Craig | Miller Thomson |
| Contact | Bernie Ho | Kyla Sandwith | Joe Spelliscy | Analea Wayne |
| Articling Program | assigned to a specific practice (optional rotation) | formal rotation | informal rotation | formal rotation |
| Did you know? | principals only take a student every 2 years, so that mentor-ship continues past articling | BLG has a non-practising lawyer dedicated to student development (from articling to 1st yr assoc.) | students can be seconded to Beresh DePoe for a criminal law rotation | |
| Tips for your application | - give as much information as you can in as few words as possible<br>- reference letters should be up-to-date | Be authentic in the way you portray yourself in your application and at the interview | - no grammatical errors<br>- be aware that reference letters from profs tend to be generic | - be specific about the city where you want to article |

*Canons gratefully acknowledges the contributions of Borden Ladner Gervais, Macleod Dixon, Duncan & Craig LLP, and Miller Thomson (Edmonton) for these articles.*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